

should the child of, say, a waitress or a gas station attendant have the same chance of avoiding a given illness and, if afflicted by it, of surviving and fully recuperating from it as, say, the child of a corporate executive?

Evidently, the dominant decision makers in this nation have now concluded that our health system can properly offer the executive's child a higher probability of avoiding illness, or of surviving and fully recovering from a given illness, than it offers the child of a gas station attendant or waitress—that our health system can properly be tiered by income class.

That is purely a moral judgment. As such, it is not wrong. But it would have been appropriate, in a democracy, to debate this important question more explicitly than it was. Instead, the proponents of this distributional ethic cloaked their case in the jargon and normative theories willingly supplied, without proper warnings, by the economics profession. Thus, the new ethic was sold to the public by the argument that a "market-based" health system in which individuals are granted "responsibility" for their own health care (and their own health status!), and in which individual "consumers" are "empowered" to exercise "free choice" of the "consumer good" health care, would be more "efficient" (and hence "better") than any alternative system, and that it would obviate the need for "rationing" health care. But to tell an uninsured single mother of several possibly sickly children that she is henceforth empowered to exercise free choice in health care with her meager budget is not necessarily a form of liberation, nor is it efficient in any meaningful sense of that term. It is rationing by income class.

To have one's professional jargon, hypotheses, and embedded ideology dominate in this way may be a triumph of sorts. Readers will judge whether it was a genuine accomplishment.

FOOTNOTES

¹Nelson R. *The Moon and the Ghetto*. New York, NY: WW Norton & Co Inc; 1977: It 23.

²Bator FM. The simple economics of welfare maximization. *Am Econ Rev*. 1958; 72:351-379.

³Reinhardt UE. Reflections on the meaning of efficiency: can efficiency be separated from equity? *Yale Law Policy Rev*. 1992;10:302-315.

⁴Baumol WJ. *Economic Theory and Operations Analysis*. 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall International Inc; 1977:chap 21.

⁵Kaldor N. Welfare propositions of economists and interpersonal comparisons of utility *Econ J*. September 1939:549-552.

⁶Reinhardt UE. Rationing in health care: what it is, and what it is not. In: Altman EH, Reinhardt UE, eds. *Strategic Choices for a Changing Health System*. Chicago, Ill: Health Administration Press; 1996.

⁷Rosen HS, Katz ML. *Microeconomics*. Homewood, Ill: Richard D Irwin Inc; 1991:15-16.

⁸Kearl JR. *Principles of Microeconomics*. Lexington, Mass: DC Heath & Co; 1993:chap 16, especially p 418.

⁹Friedman LS. *Microeconomic Policy Analysis*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill International Book Co; 1984:64-70.

¹⁰Phelps CE. *Health Economics*. New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers Inc; 1992:chap 4.

¹¹Clinton W. *President Clinton's Health Care Reform Proposal and Health Security Act, as Presented to Congress on October 27, 1993*. Chicago, Ill: Commerce Clearing House Inc; 1993.

¹²Krueger AB, Reinhardt UE. The economics of employer versus individual mandates. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. Spring 1994:34-53.

¹³Fuchs VR. Economics, values and health care reform. *Am Econ Rev*. 1996;86:1-24.

ored for his lifelong commitment to justice. This event is being held at Jersey City State College in Jersey City, NJ.

Kabili Tayari is a true believer of empowerment. Malcolm X's statement, "use any means necessary" comes to mind as I think of Kabili. Although he is a man of many strategies, he has chosen education as his "weapon" of choice in fighting the injustices of our society.

In 1989, New Jersey's Governor appointed him to the Jersey City Board of Education. He has served the board in a number of capacities. He served as chairperson of the legislative committee from 1991 to 1996. He was vice president of the board from 1993 to 1995. On May 2, 1996, he was elected president of the Jersey City Board of Education.

Although Kabili has served the citizens of Jersey City through its board of education, he has also shared his talents with other organizations. They include the Association for Retarded Children, the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP Branches, the Hudson County College Education Opportunity Fund, the Essex County College Education Opportunity Fund, the New Jersey Martin Luther King Commemorative Commission, the Region II National Title I/Chapter 1 Parents Organization, the Parents Council of the Jersey City a.k.a. Citywide Parents Council, and the Jersey City State College; his alma mater. He has held leadership roles in each of these groups that work for the empowerment of our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me as I congratulate and thank Kabili Tayari for his dedication and commitment to making life better for so many.

THE NEW YORK EYE SURGERY CENTER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the New York Eye Surgery Center is celebrating its 10th anniversary of state-of-the-art medical care in the Bronx. I want to congratulate the center for the medical service it has given to the area over that decade. I also want to congratulate the center for its annual gift of a day of free cataract surgery for those unable to afford the procedure. Last year 20 free surgeries were performed and more are expected to be performed this year. The center also has a day of free eye screenings for glaucoma, cataracts, and diabetes and this year May 17 is the day for free eye care as part of Mission Cataract USA '96. The screenings are free to anyone from the community regardless of need. This state-of-the-art care is also state-of-the-heart care and I congratulate the New York Eye Surgery Center for the great and good work it is doing.

TRIBUTE TO JIM PRUTZMAN

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of Illinois' 14th

Congressional District, Mr. Jim Prutzman of West Chicago.

A Navy veteran of World War II, Jim Prutzman has been a successful businessman in his hometown and has served his community as a past-commander of American Legion Post No. 300 and as a past president of the West Chicago Chamber of Commerce. While these activities alone are worthy of honor, though, I rise today to honor Jim for his decades of work with the West Chicago Fire Department.

Jim Prutzman began his work with the West Chicago Fire Protection District in 1959, as a paid on-call firefighter. In 1971, Jim was appointed to the fire district's board of trustees and elected treasurer. Shortly after his appointment, the West Chicago fire district hired its first full-time firefighters in 1972, which also resulted in the formation of the municipal ambulance service. Jim Prutzman was elected president of the fire district board in 1981, serving in that capacity for the next 14 years, and retired from his duty with the fire district just a few short weeks ago.

In his 37 years with the West Chicago Fire Protection District, the department has grown from a few paid on-call firemen to today's 3 fire stations, 22 full-time employees, 14 on-call firefighters, and 9 paramedics. Jim has been actively involved in that growth, and the people of West Chicago are better protected today because of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring this dedicated man, for his commitment and service to the West Chicago community. I join the citizens of West Chicago in congratulating Jim on his well-deserved retirement from the fire protection district, and wish him all the best for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN RULES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would retain the country of origin rules in effect on June 30, 1996 for apparel items produced in American Samoa. This legislation is limited in scope, and it will have a limited impact on U.S. trade. It is, however, critical to the economic development of American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, the American Samoa Government has been pursuing outside investment opportunities for many years. Recently, a garment manufacturing company has begun production in American Samoa—the first significant new outside industry to invest in the territory since the 1960's. The new industry provides jobs for our people, tax revenues for the local government, and secondary revenue for a variety of private sector businesses.

The industry is small by U.S. standards, it employs fewer than 500 local people at this time, but it represents diversification for our economy, and its presence lessens our dependence on the Federal Government. The plant is running smoothly and is ahead of schedule with respect to production levels.

Because this is a new industry for American Samoa, it requires a significant amount of

TRIBUTE TO KABILI TAYARI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 11, Kabili Tayari is being hon-